

NEWSLETTER #47 - APRIL 2006

If you have access to Microsoft word, open the attachment above to see the information below in a more "reader friendly" format.

Fly Fishing Adventures Travel Newsletter, April 2006

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We are in the fifth year of publishing our monthly newsletter with updates on great fly fishing venues and insights for our traveling fly fishers. We want to help you match the right location with your fly fishing goals and objectives and properly prepare you to fully enjoy the experience. We've been to most locations and pride ourselves on our ability to research new sites. One of our services is to compare and contrast different lodges/outfitters. Whatever unbiased information on timing and locations we can provide comes at the same cost to you as booking direct – i.e., no extra cost.

AMAZON HIGHLIGHTS – TWO SPOTS REMAIN

Our regular readers will be familiar with the excitement we had for our December trip to fish for Peacock Bass at the Amazon's only fly fishing lodge, the Royal Amazon. Basically, we found it to be a great adventure and so different from our traditional fly fishing trips in either fresh or salt water. Our enthusiasm caused us to book three blocks of space at the lodge for the prime time of February and March of '07. All the spots are gone except for two. If you'd like additional info or to see our report from our trip, just hit "reply" and we'll send you the word docs.

Steve Voss was there with three friends in mid-March and had this report:

"We will go back....The lodge was great, the no-see-ums tough, and the arawana fish fun to search for and try to catch...Caught 200++ peacocks and a large number of double digit sized fish. The youngest person with us had never fly fished before...got good by the end of the week and also caught at least 200 fish.

Over all, the facilities were great and the fishing fantastic...they need better flight service to Manaus. The guides all differed on how to catch the arawana ...one did jump into a guys boat after a popper...how about catching one without a hook?"

MAY 2 IS "SAN FRANCISCO DAY"

Our new approach to getting together with our clients in San Francisco who want to discuss or view slide presentations of our many destinations: personalized visits to home or office.....or, we can simply meet for a cup of coffee and a visit. We will be available, by appointment, for individuals or groups. We can also provide lunchtime entertainment. Let me know if you would like to discuss an appointment to view a specific destination on film or get together for any reason on May 2.

GREAT PREDATORS: BOOBIES AND HAMMERHEADS

Mike Bertoldi and Jim Langley were on their annual permit quest in Belize aboard the Seaduction with Captain Charles Westby and watched a 13 foot hammerhead shark track down a large spotted eagle ray on a shallow flat. Mike has watched, on a hunting trip in the Northwest Territories, a grizzly bear take down a caribou and said this episode left him with a similar feeling. They were fishing a shallow permit flat (3 feet deep) from a poled skiff and heard lots of commotion and splashing. When they turned to look, they saw a 40-50# spotted eagle ray about five feet in the air. When it returned to the water, the ray only stayed a few seconds and was airborne again....and again. Then they saw the reason – a shark fin cutting through the water, just a few feet behind the ray. They were close enough to see the unmistakable head of a large hammerhead pursuing the ray. The ray kept jumping until it tired and then the shark jumped him....big splash and the remains of the ray were on the bottom.

How do boobies fit under this heading? Not quite as dramatically, but an interesting fly fishing tale none-the-less. Harvey Zeidweg and Joe Ferguson were fishing Christmas Island recently. They reported having an "excellent trip, very well coordinated operation (particularly for the country and the level of infrastructure), very personable guides who quit fishing long after they normally would have." They caught "plenty of bones, trevally, wahoo, tuna, and a dorado...even landed three boobies who seemed to like my popper." They actually landed three boobies – everyone knows what a scary predator a booby is?!!

APRIL AT NORTH PLATTE

Each of the last several years, we have held space in early April at North Platte Lodge near Casper, Wyoming. We have found the North Platte to be one of the West's most productive early and late season fisheries. Each year we have received similar reports to the ones below. We have had several father-son and/or daughter trips since our time usually coincides with the Easter break holiday. This April, Jim Mossup and his 13 year old son, Julian, were at NPL. Jim's report: "We had perfect weather and a great experience - catching a lot of fish, nice people, good organization and a really fun time. Julian caught 61 fish in the 4 days (ten over 20 inches) one being 25 inches so he is a proud member of the NPL 25 Inch Club. I would go back in heartbeat...."

Dennis Smith was accompanied by his novice fly fisherwoman wife, Julie. Dennis commented "A fly fisherwoman is born!" Julie and Dennis already have reservations to return in November.

As we do every year, we are also holding some early September space at NPL (9/1- 4 and 9/10 – 14) and a few "cast and blast" slots in the fall for those interested in mixing fly fishing with some bird hunting.

A "GUIDE STORY" WORTH REPORTING

A few days after I left our favorite independent guide in NZ, the following episode occurred. It rained very heavy for the 24 hours preceding him meeting a client and the rivers were running high with color. Kevin Payne was trying to decide where he may be able to find this client some good fishing given the conditions. After careful consideration and discussion with his client, they decided to try the headwaters of one of his favorite streams, hoping that the upper stretch of the river would not be too affected by the weather. One factor was the road – it would be a steep, narrow, and most likely very slick dirt track. After agreeing it was worth the risk, they set off. Well, it was slick....and Kevin's four wheel drive pick-up slid off the road and into some rocks totaling the truck, but fortunately, left the two of them unharmed. After making a few phone calls to arrange for someone to pick them up later that afternoon, they decided to (what else?!) go fishing. And what a day they had! They ended up with one of those fantasy NZ days of 11 fish released (and another 5 lost) that weighed between 4 and 8.5 pounds...and half of them taken on dry flies!

Either phone or drop us an e-mail if you have questions or would like more information about any of our destinations.

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